

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 9 and 12 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are in independent form.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 8, 9 and 12 are objected to because of various informalities. Following the Examiner's helpful suggestion, the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 8 to include the clarifying verbiage useful in distinguishing which U-shaped cross section is referenced in the claims. It is respectfully submitted that the claim objections are now overcome.

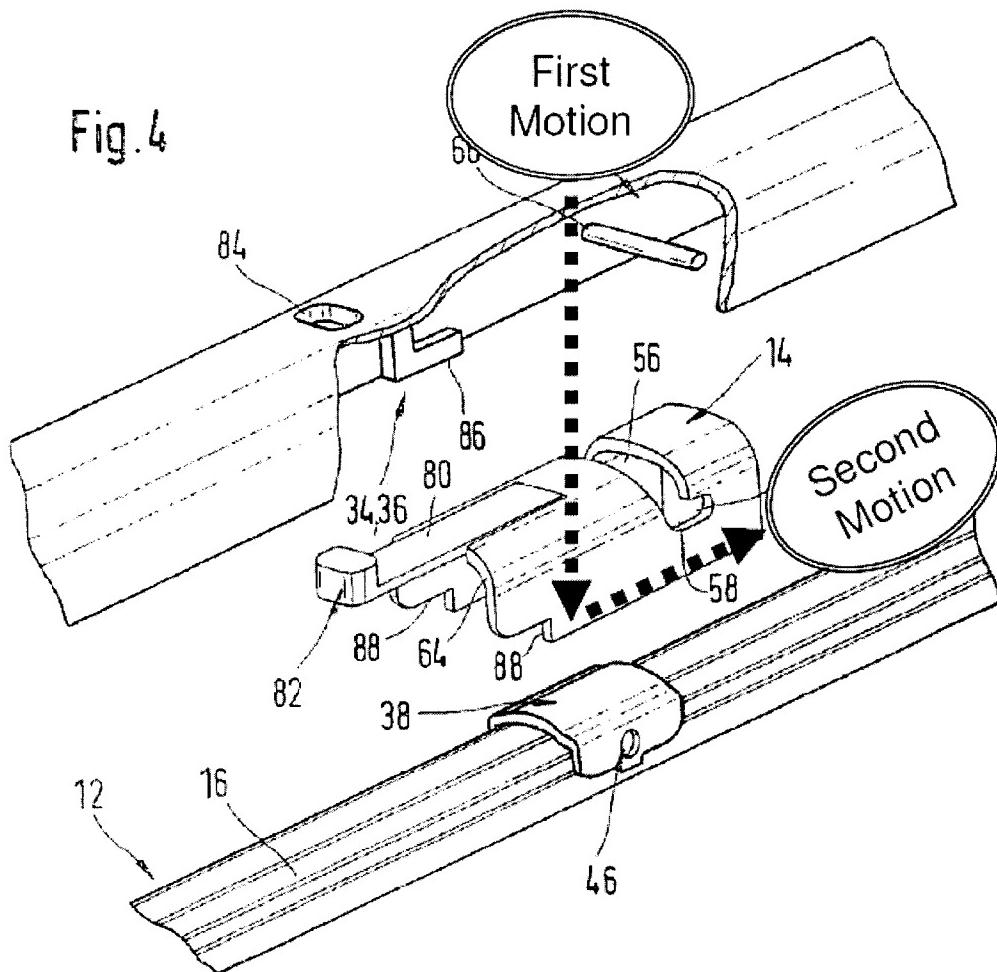
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 8, 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baseotto et al. (WO 02/34594) in view of Weber et al. (WO 02/053421).

Baseotto describes L-shaped legs (86) of the oscillating arm (10) that cooperate with recesses (88) in the joint part (14) (see Figure 4) and act like stops (34, 36). Clearly, no clamping action is involved in Baseotto, as set forth in Applicant's claim with respect to the inwardly bended edges (17) of the Applicant's invention. A particular deficiency in regard to the Baseotto construction resides in the cumbersome connection procedure. To connect the Baseotto arm (10) to the wiper blade (12), an installer must first move the components toward one another in a first relative motion and then change directions and slide the two components longitudinally relative to one another in a second relative motion path to complete the coupling exercise. This two-motion process requires mechanical dexterity and is generally disfavored in the industry. Below, an illustration of the two-motion operation is graphically represented:

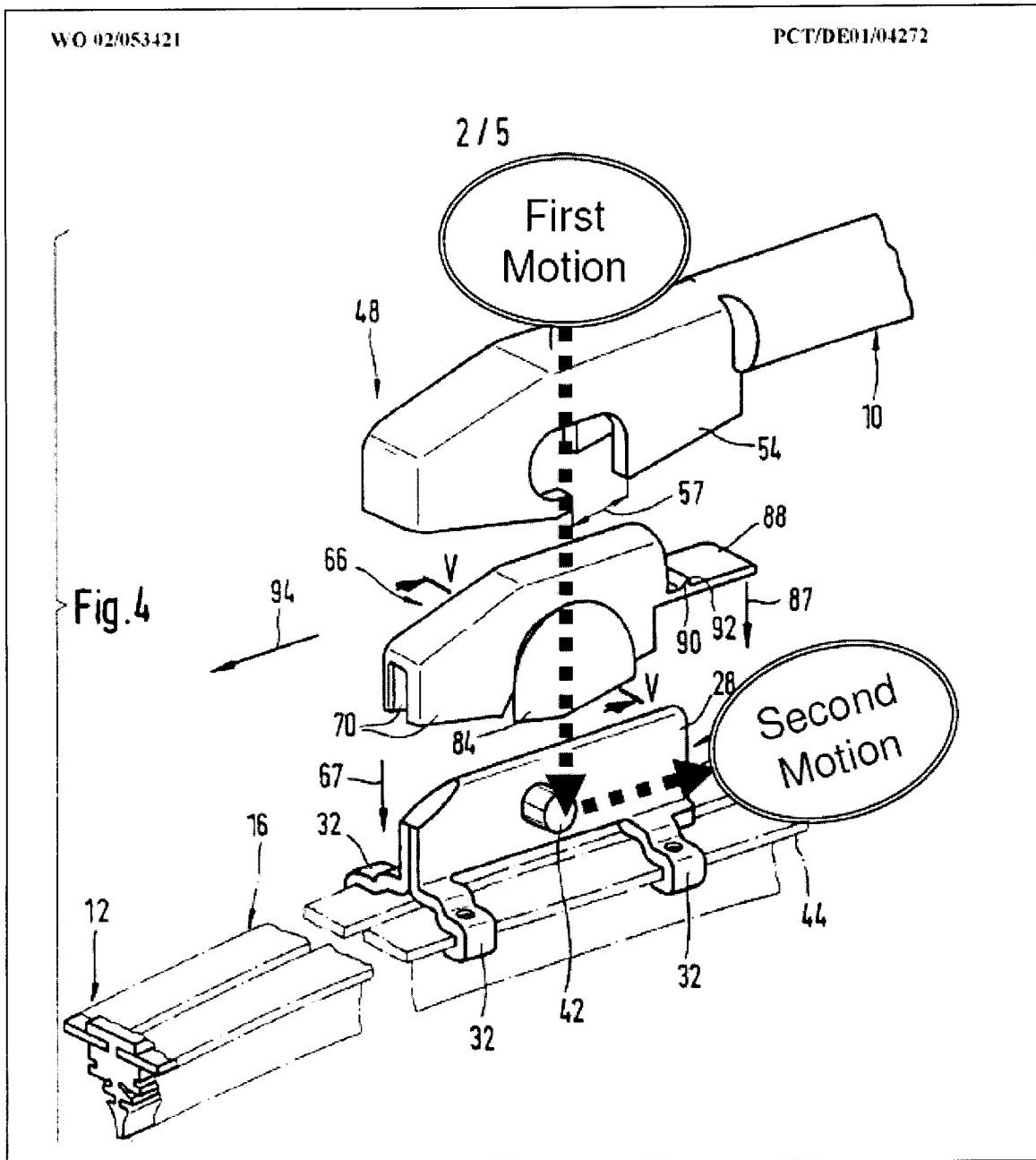
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Fig.4

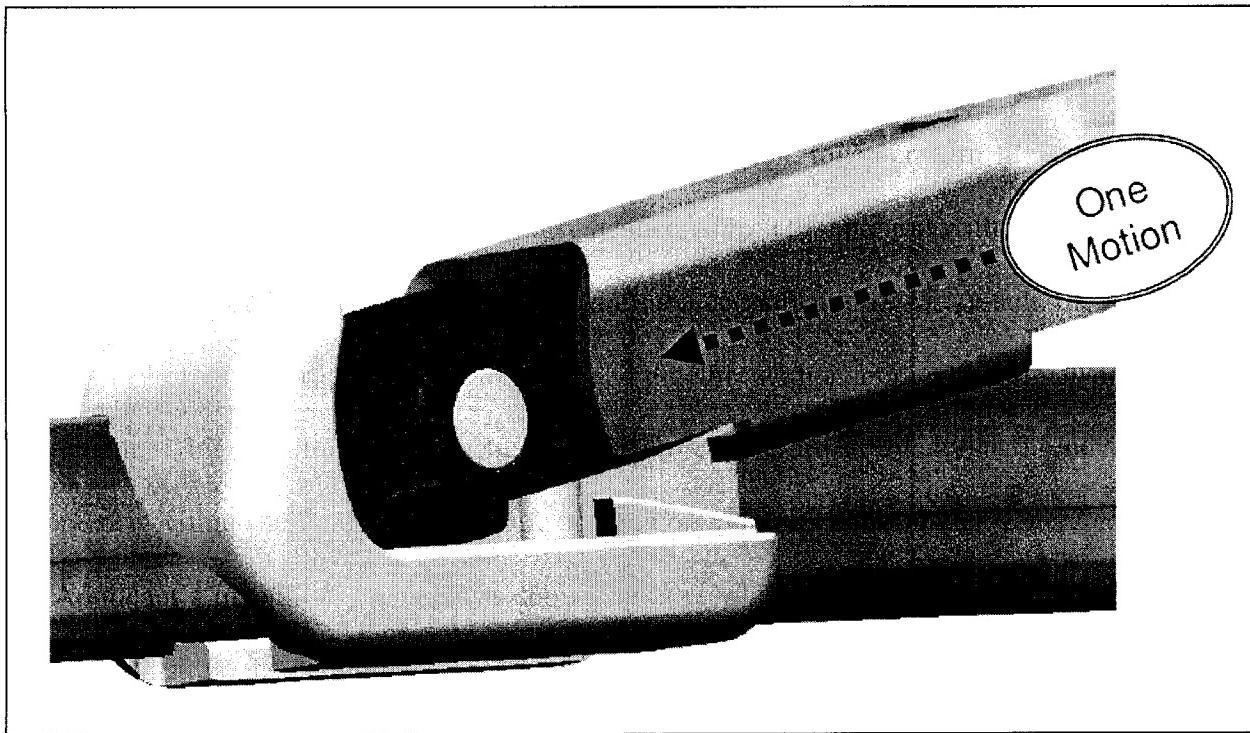


Weber, by contrast, discloses a connection system for joining the oscillating end of a wiper arm (70) to a wiper blade (12), but likewise fails to teach the Applicant's claimed clamping member that engages around longitudinal, outwardly facing sides of the joint part. Due to this difference Weber, like Baseotto, describes a connection system which requires two dissimilar motions to accomplish a full coupling. More specifically, and referring to the

illustration below, Weber requires a first motion wherein the components are moved laterally relative to one another, and then a second perpendicular motion in which the components are shifted longitudinally until the locking feature engages.



In distinction to these prior art examples, the Applicant's claimed invention includes clamping members (71) which engage around longitudinal sides of the joint part (12) and face away from each other such that the clamping members (17), together with the substantially U-shaped cross section, are formed as inwardly bended edges (17) integral with the legs (15). This language is supported in Paragraph [0022] of the subject application. As a result, the Applicant's invention permits the arm and blade to be locked together with a simple, one-dimensional, linear movement. This one linear movement necessary to couple arm to blade has found widespread acceptance within the automobile manufacturing community. A computer generated model of the Applicant's invention, precisely as shown and described in the drawing figures, is provided below to illustrate the one-dimensional, linear motion of this invention.



In view of the Applicant's clarifying amendments to Claim 1, which now positively recite that the clamping members (17) are formed as inwardly bended edges that are integral with the legs (15), which features are not shown or described in either Baseotto or Weber, and which features provide particularly advantageous functionality (i.e., one-dimensional, linear motion connection) to the subject invention, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections based on obviousness have been overcome. Accordingly, further and favorable reconsideration is hereby requested.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested on the basis of these amendments.

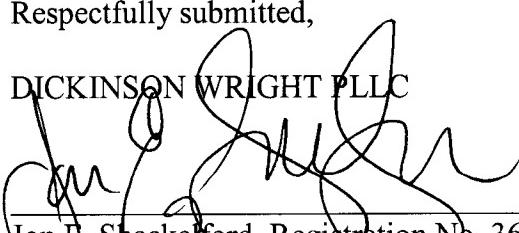
It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or refund any excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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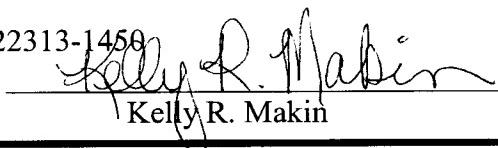
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